

It could happen again...

Hurricane Preparedness

Top researchers predict 15 named storms, to include four intense category three or above hurricanes for the 2005 hurricane season – with a 59-percent probability Florida will be affected. Now is the time to prepare yourself and your family for the worst.

Source: Department of Atmospheric Science at Colorado State University

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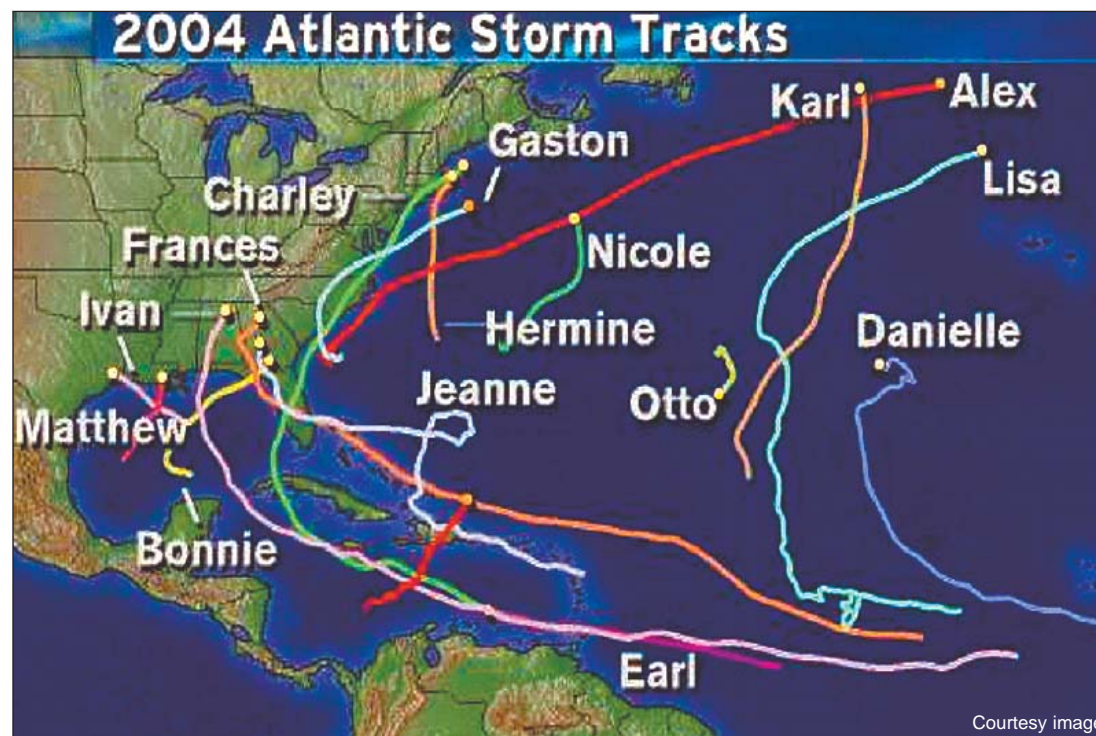
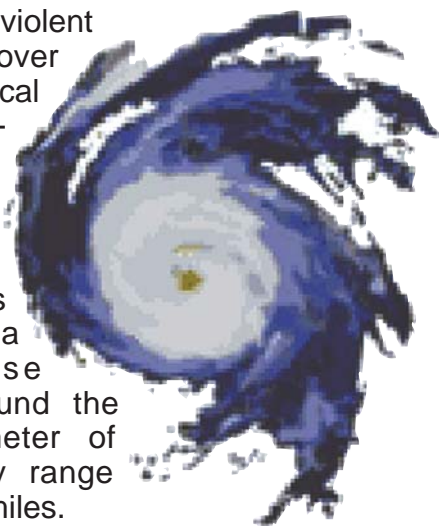
What is a hurricane?

A hurricane is a violent storm originating over tropical or sub-tropical waters with sustained (constant) winds of 74 miles per hour.

The winds, as in tropical depressions and storms, blow in a counter-clockwise direction and around the center. The diameter of these storms may range from 100 to 1,000 miles.

The Atlantic Ocean hurricane season officially began Wednesday and continues until Nov. 30. August and September are the busiest months, both in the number of tropical disturbances and in the intensity of the storms.

However, hurricanes and tropical storms have been known to occur during all months of the year except February.



Courtesy image

2005 Atlantic Storm Names

Arlene
Bret
Cindy
Dennis
Emily
Franklin
Gert

Harvey
Irene
Jose
Katrina
Lee
Maria
Nate

Ophelia
Philippe
Rita
Stan
Tammy
Vince
Wilma

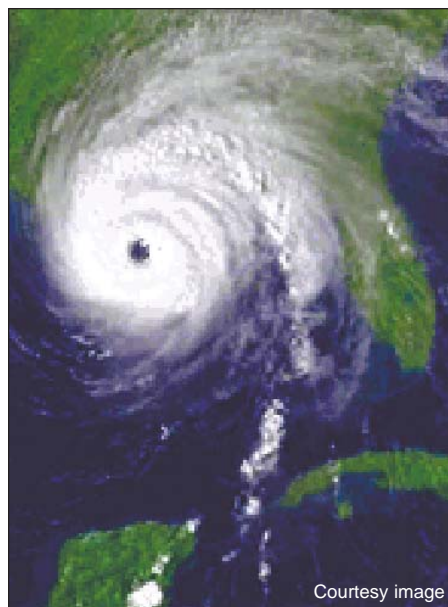
Category 1 Hurricane
winds 74-95 mph,
minimal damage

Category 2 Hurricane
winds 96-110 mph,
moderate damage

Category 3 Hurricane
winds 111-130 mph,
extensive damage

Category 4 Hurricane
winds 131-155 mph,
extreme damage

Category 5 Hurricane
winds 156 mph and up,
catastrophic damage



Courtesy image

Hurcon 4
72 hours prior to arrival
50-knot winds
or greater

Hurcon 3
48 hours prior to arrival
50-knot winds
or greater

Hurcon 2
24 hours prior to arrival
50-knot winds
or greater

Hurcon 1
12 hours prior to arrival
50-knot winds or greater

Hurricane threats

The 74 to 160 mile per hour winds of a hurricane can extend inland for hundreds of miles. Hurricanes can spawn tornadoes, floods and flash landslides, high winds, and storm surges. Nine out of 10 hurricane fatalities are attributable to the storm surge.

Hurricane Winds

Coastal communities consider the strength of hurricane winds and the pressure they generate. As winds increase, pressure against objects is added at a disproportionate rate. These winds will weaken after landfall due to loss of warm-water energy source, and the encountering of great friction over land.

Rainfall and Flooding

Heavy rains and ocean waters brought ashore by strong winds can cause flooding in excess of 20 inches over a 24-hour period. Hurricanes are capable of producing copious amounts of flash flooding rainfall. The heaviest rain usually occurs along the coastline, but sometimes there is a secondary maximum further inland. This heavy rain usually occurs slightly to the right of the cyclone track and between six hours before and six hours after landfall. The amount of rain depends on the size of the cyclone, the forward speed of the cyclone and whether it interacts with a cold front.

Storm Surge

Storm surge is an abnormal increase in the ocean's level, sometimes in excess of several meters high and miles wide. They can come up to five hours before the storm and destroy low-elevation coastal areas. They're especially damaging during high tide and responsible for most hurricane-related deaths. It's a large dome of water often 50 to 100 miles wide that sweeps across the coastline near where a hurricane makes landfall. It can range from 4 to 6 feet tall for a minimal hurricane to greater than 20 feet for the stronger ones.

Information resources

The Weather Channel
Local television stations
Radio emergency broadcast stations
WKSM-FM 99.5
– Fort Walton Beach

WYBZ-FM 105.5 – Fort Walton Beach
WFTW-AM 1260 – Fort Walton Beach
WEBY-AM 1330 – Milton
WXBW-FM 102.7 – Pace
WECM-AM 1490 – Milton
WLWI-FM 92.3 – Montgomery, Ala.



Courtesy image

Hurricane watch vs. warning

Hurricane watch:

Hurricane conditions pose a possible threat to your area. In especially vulnerable areas, early evacuation may be necessary when a Watch is issued. Otherwise you should review hurricane safety procedures and make preparations. Listen to NOAA Weather radio and commercial radio and television for the latest information and instructions for your location.

Hurricane warning:

Hurricane conditions are expected in your area within 24 hours. Areas

subject to storm surges or tides should be evacuated as well as areas which could be isolated by flood waters. Follow the instructions of local officials. You will not be asked to leave your home unless your life is threatened.

The latest storm-related information will be available on NOAA Weather Radio and commercial radio and television. Do not tie up telephone lines by calling local officials or the National Weather Service. Listen carefully to broadcasters serving your immediate area.

Evacuation kit

- Water – at least one gallon daily per person for three to seven days
- Food – at least enough for three to seven days
- Non-perishable packaged or canned food/juices
- Foods for infants or the elderly
- Snack foods
- Non-electric can opener
- Blankets/pillows, etc.
- Clothing – seasonal/rain gear/sturdy shoes
- First aid kit/medicines/prescription drugs
- Toiletries/hygiene items/ moisture wipes
- Flashlight/batteries
- Radio – NOAA weather radio
- Cash – banks and automatic teller machines may not be open or available for extended periods
- Keys
- Toys, books and games
- Important documents – in a waterproof containers (marriage licenses, insurance, medical records, bank account numbers, social security cards, etc.)
- Tools – keep a set with you during the storm
- Pet care items
- Proper identification/immunization records/ medications
- A carrier or cage
- Muzzle and leash
- Sturdy shoes and rain gear
- Essential medicine
- Compass, map
- Camera and film
- Mosquito repellent
- Paper plates, cups, plastic utensils, napkins and paper towels
- Wood matches and charcoal or camping grill with butane fuel canisters to heat or cook food until power is restored
- Plastic trash bags

Hurricane Preparations

Keep your vehicle hurricane-ready

By Master Sgt. Theodore Millard II
AFSOC headquarters

In the midst of hurricane season, Hurlburt Field personnel are advised to keep their vehicles well-maintained in case of another emergency evacuation.

It's clear to see why it's important to us as individuals for our vehicle to be ready for a long trip, but it's even more important to keep our vehicle in shape to prevent contributing to the already high rate of accidents we see on our local roads.

You can do your part to be a safer motorist by checking the operation of your vehicles headlights, taillights, and stop and turn signals at least once a month. Replace burned-out lights as soon as possible. Working lights make you visible and tell other drivers what your intentions are. Are you going to stop, turn left, turn right, etc?

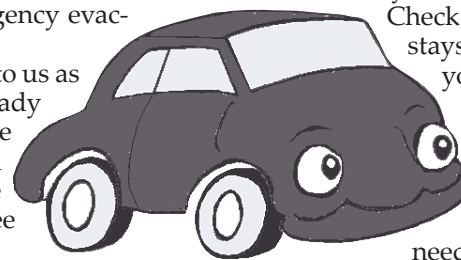
Something as simple as cleaning dirty headlights may sound silly, but dirty headlights can cut your night vision by one-half.

If safety isn't enough reason to sway you to regularly check your vehicle, *Florida title XXIII Motor Vehicles, chapter 316 codes 316.220-316.222*, requires vehicles to have two functional headlights, taillights and stop lights.

If any of your vehicles' lights are inoperable, you may be stopped by police and issued a citation for a non-moving violation, which will cost you \$71.50. Along with checking and replacing lights,

other safety checks should be regularly accomplished.

Another vehicle safety check you can make to prevent accidents from ruining your day deals with your vehicle's braking system. Check to ensure the brake pedal stays well above the floor when you step on it.



If your car pulls to one side when applying the brakes, or if you hear scraping or squealing noises, your brakes may need to be repaired.

Don't forget about your vehicle's windows and windshields. Keep them clean, inside and out to reduce glare. Windshield wipers need to be in working order. Did you know mirrors are a must? Your car must have at least one rearview mirror to provide you a view of at least 200 feet off the highway to the rear. If your rear windows are covered or treated with material that makes the rear window non-transparent, then you must have two side mirrors.

The most overlooked part of your vehicle is the tires. Is there enough air in them? Are they worn? Tires should have visible tread of at least 1/16 of an inch across the base with no worn spots showing the ply. Smooth tires on wet roads contribute to thousands of serious crashes, and in our area wet slippery roads are pretty common.

For more information on Florida motor vehicle safety, visit www.hsmv.state.fl.us.

Informative Web sites

Contact directory page for FEMA – <http://www.fema.gov/feedback/>
FEMA.gov offers a plethora of information on the topic of hurricane background and preparedness – <http://www.fema.gov/hazards/hurricanes/hurinfo.shtm>

NOAA.gov offers helpful information about hurricanes and how to prepare personally and as a community – <http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/brochures/hurrbro.htm>

Disastercenter.com offers helpful information on hurricanes and hurricane preparedness – <http://www.disastercenter.com/guide/hurricane.html>

Stormsurvival.homestead.com offers information on what should be included in a hurricane kit – <http://www.stormsurvival.homestead.com/Hurricanekit.html>

Progress Energy offers a listing of general items, first-aid kit, and non-perishable food items that should be included in a hurricane kit – <http://www.progress-energy.com/aboutenergy/stormcentral/stormtips/hurricanekit.asp>

NOAA.gov offers information

on disaster supply kits that one should have ready in preparation for hurricanes – http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/HAW2/english/prepare/supply_kit.shtm

NOAA.gov offers a PDF with information on hurricane kits – <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/HAW2/pdf/EVACBOOK3.pdf>

Weather Research Center offers information on hurricane survival kits for families – <http://www.wxresearch.org/family/>

Simplerlife.com has various types of disaster evacuation kits available for sale on-line – <http://www.simplerlife.com/hurricanekit.html>

Sky diary kidstorm facts about hurricanes for kids – <http://skydiary.com/kids/>

Hurricane information from National Geographic specifically for youth – <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/ngkids/0308/hurricane/info.html>

Information and fun activities for youth about hurricanes and hurricane preparation – <http://www.fema.gov/kids/>

Prepare your property

■ Keep trees and shrubbery trimmed. Make trees more wind resistant by removing diseased or damaged limbs. Also, remove branches so that wind can blow through the trees.

■ Clear loose and clogged rain gutters and downspouts to prevent misdirected flooding.

■ Install hurricane shutters.

■ If you don't have hurricane shutters, install anchors for plywood (marine plywood is best) and pre-drill holes in pre-cut half-inch outdoor plywood boards.

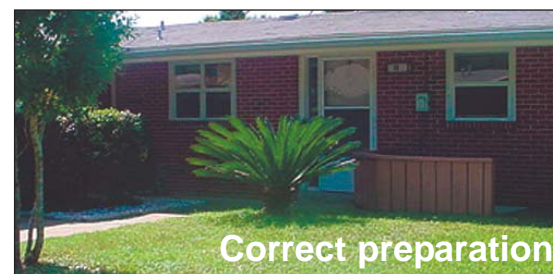


■ Cover all windows, including French doors, sliding glass doors and skylights. If these fail, wind can rip off the roof and cause the walls to collapse. Or the wind can scour the interior and wreck the contents.

■ Strengthen garage doors. Many houses are destroyed by hurricane winds that enter through damaged garage doors, lifting roofs and destroying the home.

■ Have an engineer check your home and advise you about ways to make it more resistant to hurricane winds, especially if you have an older home. Post-Hurricane Andrew roofs can withstand hurricane winds.

■ When there's an impending hurricane, bring in all outdoor furniture, toys and garden tools. Anchor anything that can't be brought indoors.
Source: Patrick Air Force Base, Fla.



Important phone numbers

Base contacts

Hurlburt Field Disaster Preparedness Office

884-1154/4304

Eglin AFB Disaster Preparedness Office

882-3173

Contact your Unit Control

Center for up-to-date hurricane/evacuation information

Hospitals

Fort Walton Beach Medical Center

862-1111

Santa Rosa Medical Center

626-7762

Twin Cities Hospital

678-4131

North Okaloosa Medical Center

689-8100

Gulf Breeze Hospital

934-2000

Eglin Air Force Base Emergency Room

883-8227

County Contacts

Federal Emergency

Management Agency

(800) 621-3362

TTY: (800) 462-7585

State of Florida

Emergency Information

24-hour hotline Call for road information, airports, etc: (800) 342-3557

State Volunteer and

Donations Hotline

(800) 354-3571

Elder Affairs

(800) 963-5337

Florida Power and Light

(800) 468-8243

Department of Financial

Services Insurance Claim

Hotline (800) 227-8676

Attorney General's Price

Gouging Hotline

(800) 646-0444

Agricultural and Consumer

Services Price Gouging

Hotline

(800) 435-7352

Agency for Workforce

Innovation Unemployment

Claims (800) 204-2418

Salvation Army Donation

Helpline

(800) 725-2769

American Red Cross

Okaloosa County

314-0316/0069

Santa Rosa County

432-7601

Post-hurricane safety tips

- When entering any building or home use precaution, items may be loose
- If traffic lights are down, treat every intersection as a four way stop
- Watch out for downed power lines and broken glass
- Unless you're part of an official recovery operation, stay out of damaged areas and debris piles
- If stopped by local authorities while traveling to and from Hurlburt Field as a member of the recovery team, during local curfew hours, present military or Department of Defense identifica-

tion and identify yourself as being assigned to Hurlburt Field

- On-base members can call the survival recovery center at 884-1154 to report storm damage
- Headgear is necessary when working outdoors and while operating two-wheeled vehicles

■ Use caution when clearing brush and debris from homes, as snakes are prevalent after hurricanes

- Wear gloves and eye protection, as applicable, when clearing debris, etc.
- Run water for 15 minutes only once upon returning home

Relocation vs. Evacuation

The 16th Special Operations Wing commander is the only authority who can order a "mandatory" evacuation of Hurlburt Field and its housing areas. Once ordered, a designated safe haven or evacuation area will be determined. Members will be reimbursed for their movement only when it's directed by the 16th SOW commander. Okaloosa County can order an evacuation of all areas south of U.S. Highway 98, which also applies to the Soundside housing area. However, this is considered a "relocation" by Hurlburt Field. This means personnel who relocate under a county order won't be reimbursed for the relocation.



Air Force Personnel Readiness Center

In the event of an evacuation, personnel should call their unit point of contact or the AFPC/PRC toll-free number. Personnel should provide their safe haven address, emergency phone number and other pertinent data. This number will also serve as an information line to personnel about when to return to the area, report for duty, etc.

(800) 435-9941

Where to seek shelter

Off-base shelters

Okaloosa County

Baker High School

1369 14th Avenue

Baker

Davidson Middle School

6261 Old Bethal Road

Crestview

Antioch Elementary School

4700 Whitehurst Lane

Crestview

Choctawhatchee High School

110 NW Racetrack Road

Fort Walton Beach

Kenwood Elementary School

634 Eagle Street

Fort Walton Beach

Note: Okaloosa County only has 1,500 spaces in approved shelters. The county recommends early evacuation plans be made for all individu-

als and families residing south of U.S. Highway 98 and any other areas subject to mandatory evacuation.

Santa Rosa County

Milton Community Center

Pace-Sims Middle School*

Avalon Middle School

SS Dixon Intermediate School

On-base shelters

Health and Wellness Center,

*Building 90332

Child Development Center,

Building 90353

Chapel, Building 90203

Permanent Exercise Facility,

Building 91601

Youth Center, Building 90304

Note: Everyone should check in at the HAWC first, then proceed to the assigned shelter.

For those who are seeking shelter at Eglin Air Force Base, individuals should check in at the youth center, located near the west gate or the base gym on the east side of Eglin AFB.

**Special needs shelter*

Families encouraged to create disaster plans

It's important for each family to create a disaster plan. Plan to share responsibilities and work as a team.

Pick two places to meet: Right outside your home in case of a sudden emergency, like a fire; outside your neighborhood in case you can't return home. Everyone must know the address and phone number.

Ask an out-of-state friend to be your "family contact." After a disaster, it's often easier to call long distance. Other family members should call this person and tell them where they are. Everyone must know your contact's phone number.

Discuss what to do in an evacuation, including how to take care of your pets.

(Name of family)

Family Disaster Plan

Emergency Meeting Place _____
(outside your home)

Meeting Place _____
(outside your neighborhood)

Phone _____

Address _____

Family Contact _____
(name)

Phone () _____ Phone () _____
(day) (evening)

In case of emergency